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BRIDGE ON THE MONT CENIS RAILWAY.

Although the opening of the Mont Cenis tunnel has effected a great saving of time, not only between France and Italy, but between England and India—the direct route from Calais to Brindisi, the Italian port of embarkation for the East, *via* the Suez Canal, being now used for passengers and mails—travelers in search of the picturesque probably prefer to travel over the mountain, using Mr. Fell's railway, and obtaining views of the grand scenery of the Alps from the highest of those peaks which has as yet been crossed by an artificial road. Of the nature and difficulties of the work, and of the glimpses of rock and precipice afforded by the many ravines it crosses, our illustration (selected from *Engineering*) will give an excellent idea. It is a view of the bridge at Comba Scura in the Piedmontese Alps, which crosses a gorge, at a height of 395 feet from the ground. The span is 185 feet between the abutments; the width is 14 feet 9 inches, and the depth 18 feet. Over 200 tons of iron were used in the construction, and the work showed a deflection of $\frac{2}{3}$ of an inch, under a strain estimated at 4 tons per square inch. This bridge, and others similar to it, were designed by the Italian Government engineers, and constructed by Fleet and Newey, of West Bromwich, England.

Honors to an Inventor.

In France, Frederic Sauvage is considered to have the largest share of merit in practically applying steam power to the screw propeller, which he did in 1832. The town of Boulange-sur-Mer, where Frederic Sauvage was born on the 20th of September, 1786, has lately gone to considerable expense in awarding him posthumous honors, which culminated in the uncovering of a monument to his memory. At 10 o'clock the government, municipal, naval, and military authorities, deputations from various cities, headed by M. le Baron de Latouche, Sous-Préfet, and M. Hugot, Maire, started in procession from the Hôtel de Ville for the cemetery to which the remains of Frederic Sauvage were removed from Paris and interred with public honors on the 20th of September, 1872. The monument over his grave is a square pediment in three portions, made of gray marble of the same kind as the Napoleon Column is built, and obtained from the Marquise quarries. It rises to the height of 14 feet, and on the top a bronze heroic sized bust of Frederic Sauvage is placed.

On either side of the monument is an inscription setting forth the date of his birth, death—19th July, 1857—the translation of his remains, and a list of his inventions. On the front are the two words "Frederic Sauvage," and a bronze bas-relief showing a vessel with a screw propeller, a pantograph—*procédé Collas*—a physionotype, a horizontal mill for sawing marble, and a *soufflet hydraulique* for raising water, all of which were either invented or perfected by F. Sauvage, who, in addition, invented the *conformateur*, an instrument for measuring the head, the *physionomètre*, and an automatic boat.

The bronze bust and bas-relief were modeled by Mr. John Hopkins, and were cast by Messrs. Thiebaud et Fils, of Paris.

Frederic Sauvage's life was similar to those of many other inventors, in that he spent his days and fortune in perfecting inventions which brought him no profit. Having lost his own money, he borrowed from others, and, being unable to repay, was thrown into a debtor's prison, which he afterwards exchanged for a madhouse, where he died on the 19th

American trade mark. In all, 1,841 objects, weighing a total of 11 pounds and 10 ounces. The person was crazy, and his mania, whenever unwatched, consisted in swallowing any small object. It is remarkable, however, that the functions of digestion could continue with this immense mass in the stomach.

Educated Birds.

The Baltimore *American* gives the following account of

a troupe of trained Java sparrows and parroquets, now exhibiting in the streets of that city:

"When a suitable place is found, a circular table is opened and the birds are all turned loose upon it; they manifest no fear at the crowd, and do not offer to escape. The performance consists of ringing bells, trundling small wheelbarrows, slack wire walking, firing off pistols, dancing, swinging each other in small swings, an excellent imitation of a trapeze performance, and a number of other equally interesting tricks. The most wonderful part of the performance, however, is done by a parroquet. This bird walks to the center of the table, and, after bowing to the crowd, seats himself in a small chair near a bell. To the clapper of the bell there is attached a small cord, and any one in the crowd is allowed to ask the bird to strike any number of times upon the bell. If asked to strike ten times, he leaves the chair, seizes the bell rope and pulls it ten times, after which he bows and returns to his seat. This was repeated a great many times, and with one exception the bird made no mistake. The bird will strike twenty-seven times, but after that he refuses; and his owner states that he has worked nearly a year to get this bird to strike up to thirty, but it appears that his memory gives out at that point, and it is unable to count further. A collection is, of course, taken up after each exhibition."

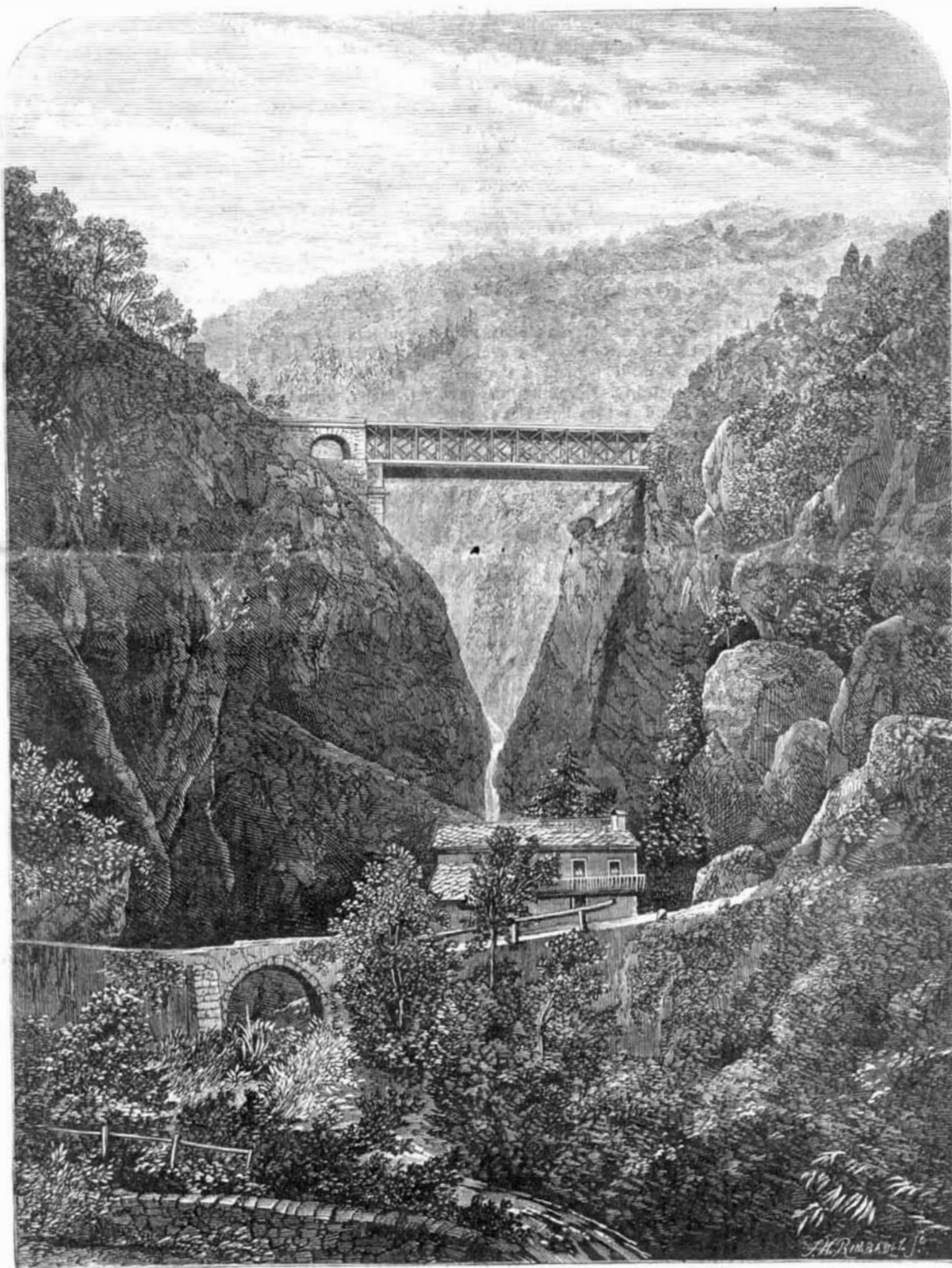
Roman Remains.

An important discovery has been made at Highwood, near the village of Ashill, in Norfolk, England, consisting of a vast collection of Roman remains in an oak-lined well, 60 feet deep. The Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society recently visited the spot, when the well, under the superin-

tendence of Mr. Barton, was emptied of its contents by a number of workmen. The well contains a great variety of articles, the most abundant being urns, of which about 100 have been obtained; more than fifty of these are perfect, and many of most beautiful form and ornamentation. There is considerable doubt as to the purpose which these wells were intended to serve; there are other two at Ashill, and others have been found elsewhere.

Vigorite.

The account of trials of this newly discovered explosive, at Stockholm, states that a charge of about eight ounces, made up in five cartridges and deposited in an excavation, raised a block of stone of 163 cubic feet. It would have taken over fourteen ounces of dynamite to have produced the same effect.



COMBA SCURA BRIDGE, ON THE MONT CENIS RAILWAY.

of July, 1857. The monument was designed by M. de Bayser.—*London Times*.

A Human Ostrich.

The curious cases which we recently mentioned of persons, one of whom swallowed a fork and another a thermometer, are completely overshadowed by that of an individual who recently died in an asylum in Prestwich, Eng. A medical contemporary, in its account of the *post mortem* examination, gives the following catalogue of the contents of the man's stomach: 1,639 shoe pegs, 6 nails four inches in length, 19 nails of three inches, 8 of two inches, 58 of one inch; 39 metal eyelets, 5 copper screws, 9 copper buttons, 20 scraps of buckles, 1 pin, 14 bits of glass, 20 pebbles, 3 pieces of twine, a fragment of leather three inches long, a piece of lead four inches long, and a bodkin bearing an